BOROUGH OF FORTH

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1953

BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Penryn.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions in the Borough of Penryn in 1955.

Despite the unusually cold winter the Vital Statistics were excellent. The only remarkable figure being the Birth Rate which at 21.4 compares very favourably indeed with the rate for England and Wales which was 15.0 per thousand of the population.

You will note that once again there was a troublesome fly infestation at the refuse disposal ground. Mr. Blackmore got it under control but fears these infestations will recur until an adequate supply of covering material becomes available.

I am glad to have this opportunity of once more expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and continued support. I must also thank Mr. Blackmore and his staff for their loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

V.E. WHITMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Except where otherwise stated the figures in brackets throughout the report are the comparable figures for 1954.

Area, acres	721	
Population	4,270	(4,250)
Number of inhabited houses	1,389	(1,367)
Rateable value	£22,690/10	(£22,220)
Product of penny rate	£88/10	(£86)
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945	353	(294)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	355	(385)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Males 44 (48) Females 53 (41) Total 98 (89)

Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"	0.95	(1.0)
Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn	21.4	(19.9)
Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales	15.0	(15.2)

Still Births

Males 1 (1) Females 1 (0) Total 2 (1)

Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, Penryn	20.0	(21.2)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales	23.2	(24.0)

Deaths

Males 24 (26) Females 25 (20) Total 49 (46)

Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"	1.05	(0.96)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn	12.0	(11.4)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales	11.7	(11.3)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Males 2 (5) Females 2 (0) Total 4 (5)

Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Penryn	40.8	(56.1)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales	24.9	(25.5)

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	1	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	1	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	1	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	4	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	-	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	-	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm ..	5	1	6	4	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	1	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	8	11	4	9
Coronary disease	4	4	5	3	5
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	2	-	1
Other heart disease	9	10	2	6	6
Other circulatory disease	4	-	3	6	2

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH CONTINUED.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Infuenza	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	4	-	3
Bronchitis	2	1	7	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	3	3	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	-	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	4	6	9
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	2	-	1
Suicide	-	1	1	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-
	48	42	58	46	49

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

	M	F	Total
0+	2 (5)	2 (0)	4 (5)
1 - 4	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
5 - 14	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
15 - 24	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
25 - 44	1 (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)
45 - 64	8 (10)	4 (2)	12 (12)
65 - 74	7 (6)	6 (2)	13 (8)
75+	6 (2)	11 (14)	17 (16)
	24 (26)	25 (20)	49 (46)

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory save that 4 infant deaths out of a total of 49 deaths is much too high. 3 of these were due to prematurity and 1 (which occurred in hospital) to aspiration of amniotic fluid. However much these deaths are to be deplored there was nothing that could, in the present state of our knowledge, have been done to prevent them.

The table analysing the causes of death has been extended to cover the past 5 years to make up for the lack of numbers. These are still too small to justify drawing any general conclusions but it is interesting to note that whereas for the United Kingdom as a whole the ratio of deaths from Coronary disease, Cancer of the lung and Tuberculosis was 85:27:7 for Penryn over the past 5 years it was 21:5:7.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

1. Clinics

Infant welfare Clinic. 51 sessions were held at which there were 1208 (953) attendances. The average was thus about 24 (19) per session.

Dental Clinic

	Expectant & Nursing Mothers	Pre-School Children	School Children
Number inspected	17 (6)	18 (12)	1194 (810)
Number requiring treatment	17 (6)	18 (12)	841 (671)
Number treated	17 (6)	18 (12)	279 (187)
Number attendances	76 (23)	41 (25)	455 (316)
Number made dentally fit	14 (4)	19 (8)	227 (152)

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service.

These services are supplied by Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service.

During the year 17 (14) maternity and 62 (66) other cases were given help in their own homes.

This service, so far as Cornwall was concerned, was pioneered in Penryn and its value is fully appreciated here by both public and general practitioners. Recently however an increasing number of applicants for help have withdrawn on learning the amount they would be called upon to pay for it. The demand for help, especially among those assessed to pay nothing, is, however, still so heavy that to keep within the establishment the amount of help given has to be rationed.

At the end of the year the Home Aid scheme was brought into operation in co-operation with the National Assistance Board. This caters for people in receipt of National Assistance grants who need eight hours help or less weekly in their homes on account of age or other infirmity. Where help is needed for more than 8 hours a week it is provided by the Home Help Service.

4. After Care.

Free extra nourishment was granted to 7 (3) tubercular persons on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

5. Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting.

	1952	1953	1954	1955
General cases	129	124	57	151
Nursing visits	1,616	1,5..	1,001	1,066
Midwifery cases	67	57	72	80
Midwifery visits	1,241	1,710	1,467	1,672
Ante natal visits	315	405	443	555
Home visits to children under 5	2,731	3,440	2,861	3,491
Home visits to old persons	293	486	1,015	360

Miss E.J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer reports :-

" The high birth rate has given the District Nurse Midwife a great deal of work especially as over 80% of all the babies were born in their own homes. The home is the best place for a normal confinement both for the mother and for the family especially where there are other small children. Other aspects of the Nurse's work could not be given as much attention as I should have liked owing to the prior call of midwifery but it is hoped that in the near future extra help can be given."

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever M	Scarlet Fever F	Whooping Cough M	Whooping Cough F
0+	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	1	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	1	-	-	1
10 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	1
	2		1	

There was no epidemic disease of any kind during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 67 (70) children under 5 were immunised against Diphtheria 48 (96) booster doses were also given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years in Penryn was 304 (297) of these 198 (206) or 65.1% (69.4%) had been immunised.

These figures are distinctly disappointing especially as after a long series of decreases 1954 showed a promising improvement. Now the percentage of children protected is even lower than in 1953 and the danger of epidemic diphtheria is that much nearer.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	2	17	-	2	21
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	11	11

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

On the 31st December, there were 40 (39) respiratory and 11 (12) non-respiratory cases on the register.

Rate per 1,000 population, Penryn	11.9 (12.0)
Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall	7.1 (6.7)

Up to 31st December 143 (95) children 48 (32) of them contacts with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. 95 (63) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit Penryn during 1955 but 35 Penryn school children were examined by the Mass Radiography Unit in Truro. No significant cases were discovered among these children.

BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Water Supply.

The Falmouth Corporation are the Statutory Undertakers for the supply of water in the Borough.

No major extension of the water mains have been carried out during the year and there has been no reason to call attention to the adequacy or quality of the water supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In the early part of the year a section of the outfall main into the Falmouth sewer was constructed, by arrangement with the County Council, across the new Secondary School site at Trescobeas Road.

Tenders were invited for the new sewerage and pumping scheme.

The routine maintenance of the existing sewers has been carried out during which a short section of 9" sewer was relaid in West Street.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The weekly refuse collection scheme which was put into operation in 1954 has met the needs of the Borough and justified the alteration.

Waste paper for salvage has been collected at the same time as the refuse, and the amount realised from the sale of baled waste has covered the cost of collection and baling, and at the same time reduced the bulk of refuse for disposal.

During the summer months complaints regarding the fly nuisance were received from the Bissom area in spite of tip dressing precautions which had been taken during the late Spring. It soon became evident that the younger generations of flies were becoming immune to the D.D.T and other insecticides were used. For a trial period Malathion mixed with Molasses was used as a spray bait at selected points in the tipping area and also as a surface spray. The results in each case were disappointing. Finally .5% Gaamexane Gamma B.H.C., powder was regularly dusted over the surface of the tip which gave better results than either of the former treatments.

There is no doubt that the irregular covering of the refuse, which was brought about by the lack of sufficient covering material on the site, was the main cause of the fly nuisance.

Covering material has again been in short supply during the year but sufficient was made available by the removal of a roadside bank and the levelling of a grass verge on a Borough Road.

This shortage of covering material will persist until the new section of the disposal area comes into use when with the provision of mechanical aid the existing soil can be removed, stock piled and used as required.

723 loads of refuse were collected during the year with the 5 cubic yard Commer Bantam vehicle which is now in it's 10th year of work.

41 tons 14 cwts of paper were baled and sold realising £283. 15. 6.

Public Conveniences.

No extension of this service has been made during the year. These are provided for both sexes (a) below the Town Hall (b) Town Quay (c) Glasney Playing Field and (d) Trelawney Park during opening hours.

Slaughterhouses.

The premises known as Sunny Corner, reconditioned and modified to comply with the present standards, were relicenced and came into operation in October. 11 beasts being slaughtered to the end of the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

11 carcases and offals of cattle have been inspected at the slaughterhouse all of which were sound.

No legal action has been necessary in connection with food offered for sale for human consumption during the year.

The following items have been voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit.

Herrings	1 cwt
Sultanas	60 lbs

Canned Foods.

Meat	77 lbs 15 ozs
Soups	1 lb 4½ ozs
Vegetables	3 lbs 9 ozs
Fish	66 lbs
Evaporated Milk	3 small tins
Fruit	42 lbs 2 ozs
Tomato Juice	98 fluid ozs

In anticipation of the promised new regulations under the Food and Drugs Act the 9 licensed premises were inspected in detail and preliminary discussion took place with the owners regarding the improvement of facilities for washing and cleansing of drinking utensils and the sanitary accommodation for the licensees and customers.

Milk Distribution.

Six distributors retail milk within the Borough and all but one supply pasteurised milk.

Rodent Control.

The full time Rodent Operator employed has continued with the systematic inspection and treatment of the premises in the Borough. A total of 2505 visits have been made and no major infestation has been found.

The sewerage system has been twice treated and of the 27 manholes dealt with 'takes' were recorded in 7.

Work on the watercourses and banks would occupy considerably less time if the occupiers of adjoining lands were more hygienic and tidy in their habits. The continuing deposit of refuse and rubbish in these streams and leats not only provides some food and harbourage for rats but also contributes largely to the blocking of gratings and culverts with the consequent danger of flooding at lower levels and the movement of the rats into or nearer dwelling houses.

The year's work may be summarised as follows :-

Premises Treated.

Dwellings and gardens	209
Refuse Disposal Site	3
Business Premises	2
Corporation Property	1

River Banks Treated.

Brook Place, College and St. Thomas Street.
The Praze, Church Road.
The Mill Leat.

Housing.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of legally and morally overcrowded houses brought about by the rehousing of this type of family in the 24 new houses erected during the year. Two serious cases of overcrowding in existing Council houses were thus abated and by a progressive exchange of other tenancies five families were rehoused in existing houses to obtain better segregation of the sexes.

Following upon the rehousing mentioned above Time & Place Notices were served upon 8 premises resulting in the making of :-

4 Closing Orders
1 Demolition Order (which was carried out) and the approval of and Improvement Grant scheme for 1 house.

Applications for Grants for Improvment and Conversion under the 1949 and 1954 Acts were still tardy but 4 cases were approved and commenced during the year.

The Corporation's Slum Clearance Programme was agreed in outline and the Scheme submitted to the Minister by the appropriate date.

Details of which are as follows :-

Part 1. The total problem.

(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	104
(ii) Period of years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	5

Part 3. Action in first five years.

(iv) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order for a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	81
(viii) Number of houses to be demolished in the five years	81
(ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	23

Housing continued.

From the details of the survey it was evident that the operation of the scheme could easily transform the appearance of parts of the town, would provide opportunity for the development of present inaccessible land and could only proceed within the new construction capacity of the local labour force.

In connection with the last point the capacity is considered to be 30 houses per year of which 20 houses have been allocated as replacement for Slum Clearance.

The County Planning Department, was consulted and are co-operating in the preparation of the scheme.

The partial development of the TruroLane - St. Gluvias Street Site will be a necessary preliminary to the Scheme.

A summary of other work in connection with housing carried out during the year is set out below :-

New Houses erected by the Council	24
New Houses erected by Private Enterprise	6
Other houses repaired as result of informal action	12
Other houses repaired as result of formal action	1
Number of inspections made regarding the disrepair or defective conditions of houses (excluding Council houses)	74
Number of inspections, as above, of Council houses	227
Total number of inhabited houses in the Borough	1,389
Number of Council Houses	440.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K.R. BLACKMORE,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.